

To members of the Environment Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce:

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment supports the Responsible Disposal Reauthorization Act of 2017, H.R. 2278, which extends the authorization of the Cheney disposal cell outside of Grand Junction, in Mesa County, Colorado until September 30, 2048.

The disposal cell currently receives uranium mill tailings waste from mill sites and vicinity properties located in Colorado. Each year approximately 2700 cubic yards of uranium mill tailings are deposited in the disposal cell. Given that this is the only Department of Energy uranium mill tailings disposal site left in the country, it is critical that this facility remains open to receive and dispose of the uranium mill tailings that are discovered in our communities. This action will ensure the continued protection of human health and the environment.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and voice our support for this important legislation.

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